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In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for providing improved audio compression securely transforming an audio stream to encoded text, comprising:

a security core which provides security functions;

one or more a plurality of components, comprising at least an audio recording component and one or more transformation components;

means for operating a security core operating module configured to operate the security core;

means for securely operably connecting wherein the components are securely operably connected to the security core, such that the security core can vouch for authenticity of each securely operably connected component;

means for recording wherein the securely operably connected audio recording component is configured to record an audio stream by the securely operably connected audio recording component;

means for transforming wherein the at least one of the securely operably connected transformation components is configured to transform the audio stream to a text stream; by at least one of the securely operably connected transformation components; and

means for securely providing, wherein the security core is configured to securely provide, for the text stream-by the security core, an identification of the securely operably connected audio recording component and each of the at least one securely operably connected transformation components;

wherein the security core is configured to detect whether the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component remain operably connected to the security core during the recording and the transforming of the audio stream; and

wherein the security core is configured to abort the recording and the transforming if one or more of the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component fails to remain operably connected to the security core during the recording and the transforming of the audio stream.

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- 2. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein selected ones of the operable connections are made using one or more buses of the security core.
- 3. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein selected ones of the operable connections are made using a wireless connection between respective ones of the components and the security core.
- 4. (Original) The system according to claim 3, wherein the wireless connections use Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) data encryption or an equivalent which provides mutual authentication of both endpoints, negotiation of a time-limited key agreement with secure passage of a selected encryption key, and periodic renegotiation of the time-limited key agreement with a new encryption key.
- 5. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein selected ones of the secure operable connections are provided when the security core is manufactured.
- 6. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the means for securely operably connecting further comprises means for authenticating the security core is configured to authenicate the operably connected component to the security core.
- 7. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 6, wherein the means for authenticating further comprises: means for providing the operably connected component is configured to provide a unique identifier of the operably connected component to the security core, along with a digital signature of the unique identifier that is created using a private key of the operably connected component; and means for using, by the security core, the security core is configured to use a public key that is cryptographically associated with the private key to determine authenticity of the operably connected component.
- 8. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the means for securely operably connecting is activated by the component is securely operably connected

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<u>after</u> a hardware reset of the component, and wherein the hardware reset is activated by operably connecting of the component.

- 9. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim [[6]] 7, wherein the means for authenticating are unique identifier is securely stored on the operably connected component.
- 10. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 6, further comprising means for authenticating wherein the security core is authenticated to the operably connected component.

11. (Canceled)

- 12. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, further comprising: means for detecting whether the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component remain operably connected to the security core during operation of the means for recording and the means for transforming and means for marking wherein the security core is configured to mark the text stream as not authenticated if one or more of the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component fails to remain operably connected to the security core during operation of the means for the recording and the means for transforming of the audio stream.
- 13. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 7, further comprising: means for determining wherein the security core is configured to determine whether the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component have been authenticated to the security core; and means for aborting to abort the recording or the transforming if one or more of the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component has not been authenticated to the security core.

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- 14. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 7, further comprising: means for determining wherein the security core is configured to determine whether the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component have been authenticated to the security core; and means for marking and to mark the text stream as not authenticated if one or more of the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component has not been authenticated to the security core.
- 15. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the means for securely providing further comprises means for digitally notarizing, by the security core, the security core is configured to digitally notarize the text stream.
- 16. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the means for securely providing further comprises means for providing the security core is configured to provide an additional data stream that is associated with the text stream, wherein the additional data stream comprises a digital notarization, created by the security core, of the text stream.
- for digitally notarizing further comprises: means for computing, by the security core, the security core is configured to compute a hash value over the text stream; means for combining to combine the hash value with a unique identifier of the audio recording component and of each of the at least one transformation components, thereby creating a combination data block; means for hashing to hash the combination data block; means for digitally signing to sign the hashed combination data block with a private cryptographic key of the security core, wherein the private cryptographic key has a public cryptographic key cryptographically associated therewith; and means for providing to provide the digitally signed hashed combination data block, along with the combination data block, as the digital notarization for the text stream, wherein the digital notarization cryptographically seals contents of the text stream and identifies the audio recording component and each of the at least one transformation components.

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- 18. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 17, further comprising means for verifying wherein the security core is configured to verify authenticity of the text stream by a receiver of the text stream and the digital notarization, using the public cryptographic key of the security core, and for concluding that the text stream is authentic if the verification succeeds.
- 19. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 18, wherein the means for verifying authenticity further comprises concluding security core is configured to conclude that the text stream has not been tampered with if the verification succeeds.
- 20. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 18, wherein the means for verifying authenticity further comprises means for security core is configured to verify authenticity by determining the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component involved in creating the text stream by decoding the digitally signed hashed combination data block to reveal the unique identifiers thereof.
- 21. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 15, wherein: the means for transforming the audio stream to a text stream further comprises: means for transforming the at least one transformation component comprises an anolog to digital transformation component configured to transform the audio stream to a digital stream by a first of the at least one transformation components which is an analog to digital transformation component; and means for converting, and a speech recognition transformation component configured to convert the digital stream to the text stream by a second of the at least one transformation components which is a voice recognition transformation component; and the means for digitally notarizing the text stream further comprises: means for computing and the security core is configured to compute a hash over the text stream; means for combining, to combine the hash with unique identifiers of the audio recording component, the analog-to-digital transformation component, and the voice speech recognition transformation component; and means for digitally signing and to digitally sign the combination the has with unique

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<u>identifiers</u> using a private cryptographic key of the security core, wherein the private cryptographic key has a public cryptographic key cryptographically associated therewith.

(Currently Amended) The system according to claim 15, wherein the at least 22. one transformation component comprises an analog-to-digital transformation component, a speech recognition transformation component, an authenticated speaker specific speech recognition database, a lexical transformation component and a text compression transformation component, : the means for transforming the audio stream to a text stream further comprises: means for transforming wherein the analog-to-digital transformation component is configured to transform the audio stream to a first digital stream by a first of the at least one transformation components which is an analog to digital transformation component; means for converting, the speech recognition transformation component is configured to convert the first digital stream to a first encoded text stream-by a second of the at least one transformation components which is a voice recognition transformation eomponent, wherein the voice speech recognition transformation component is augmented by the lexical transformation component and the authenticated speaker specific speech recognition database may be augmented by zero or more others of the at least one transformation components which are an authenticated speaker-specific voice recognition database and/or a lexical transformation component; and the text compression transformation component is configured to compress means for compressing the first encoded text stream into the text stream using a third of the at least one transformation components which is a text compression transformation component; and the means for digitally notarizing the text stream further comprises: means for computing security core is configured to digitally notarize the text stream by computing a hash over the text stream; means for combining, and to combine the hash with unique identifiers of: (1) the audio recording component; (2) the analog-todigital transformation component; (3) the voice speech recognition transformation component; (4) the authenticated speaker-specific voice speech recognition database and/or the lexical transformation component, if they augmented the voice recognition transformation component; (5) the text compression transformation component; and means for signing the combination using the security core is configured to sign the hash and unique identifies using

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a private cryptographic key of the security core, wherein the private cryptographic key has a public cryptographic key cryptographically associated therewith.

- 23. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the text stream is an ASCII text stream.
- 24. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the text stream is an EBCDIC text stream.
- 25. (Currently Amended) A method of providing improved audio compression securely transforming an audio stream to encoded text, comprising steps of:

operating a security core which provides security functions;

providing one or more a plurality of components, comprising at least an audio recording component and one or more transformation components;

securely operably connecting the components to the security core, such that the security core can vouch for authenticity of each securely operably connected component;

recording an audio stream by the securely operably connected audio recording component;

transforming the audio stream to a text stream by at least one of the securely operably connected transformation components; and

securely providing, for the text stream by the security core, an identification of the securely operably connected audio recording component and each of the at least one securely operably connected transformation components; [[.]]

detecting whether the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component remain operably connected to the security core during operation of the recording and the transforming of the audio stream; and

aborting the recording and the transforming if one or more of the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component fails to remain operably connected to the security core during the recording and the transforming of the audio stream.

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- 26. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein selected ones of the operable connections are made using one or more buses of the security core.
- 27. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein selected ones of the operable connections are made using a wireless connection between respective ones of the components and the security core.
- 28. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the wireless connections use Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) data encryption or an equivalent which provides mutual authentication of both endpoints, negotiation of a time-limited key agreement with secure passage of a selected encryption key, and periodic renegotiation of the time-limited key agreement with a new encryption key.
- 29. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein selected ones of the secure operable connections are provided when the security core is manufactured.
- 30. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein the step of securely operably connecting the components to the security core further comprises the step of authenticating the operably connected component to the security core.
- 31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, wherein the authenticating the operably connected component to the security core step further comprises steps of: providing a unique identifier of the operably connected component to the security core, along with a digital signature of the unique identifier that is created using a private key of the operably connected component; and using, by the security core, a public key that is cryptographically associated with the private key to determine authenticity of the operably connected component.
- 32. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein the step of securely operably connecting the components to the security core is activated by a hardware

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reset of the component, and wherein the hardware reset is activated by operably connecting of the component.

- 33. (Original) The method according to claim 30, wherein instructions for performing the authenticating of the operably connected component to the security core step are securely stored on the operably connected component.
- 34. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, further comprising the step of authenticating the security core to the operably connected component.
 - 35. (Canceled)
- 36. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, further comprising steps of detecting whether the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component remain operably connected to the security core during operation of the recording step-and the transforming of the audio streamstep; and marking the text stream as not authenticated if one or more of the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component fails to remain operably connected to the security core during operation of the recording step-and the transforming stepof the audio stream.
- 37. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 31, further comprising steps of: determining whether the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component have been authenticated to the security core; and aborting the recording or the transforming if one or more of the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component has not been authenticated to the security core.
- 38. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 31, further comprising steps of: determining whether the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component have been authenticated to the security core; and marking the text

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stream as not authenticated if one or more of the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component has not been authenticated to the security core.

- 39. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein the step of securely providing, for the text stream by the security core, an identification of the securely operably connected audio recording component and each of the at least one securely operably connected transformation components further comprises the step of digitally notarizing, by the security core, the text stream.
- 40. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein the step of securely providing, for the text stream by the security core, an identification of the securely operably connected audio recording component and each of the at least one securely operably connected transformation components further comprises the step of providing an additional data stream that is associated with the text stream, wherein the additional data stream comprises a digital notarization, created by the security core, of the text stream.
- 41. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 39, wherein the digitally notarizing step further comprises steps of: computing, by the security core, a hash value over the text stream; combining the hash value with a unique identifier of the audio recording component and of each of the at least one transformation components, thereby creating a combination data block; hashing the combination data block; digitally signing the hashed combination data block with a private cryptographic key of the security core, wherein the private cryptographic key has a public cryptographic key cryptographically associated therewith; and providing the digitally signed hashed combination data block, along with the combination data block, as the digital notarization for the text stream, wherein the digital notarization cryptographically seals contents of the text stream and identifies the audio recording component and each of the at least one transformation components.
- 42. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 41, further comprising the step of verifying authenticity of the text stream by a receiver of the text stream and the

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digital notarization, using the public cryptographic key of the security core, and concluding that the text stream is authentic if the verification succeeds.

- 43. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 42, wherein the step of verifying authenticity of the text stream further comprises concluding that the text stream has not been tampered with if the verification succeeds.
- 44. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 42, wherein the step of verifying authenticity of the text stream further comprises the step of determining the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component involved in creating the text stream by decoding the digitally signed hashed combination data block to reveal the unique identifiers thereof.
- 45. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 39, wherein[[:]] the step of transforming the audio stream to a text stream further comprises steps of: transforming the audio stream to a digital stream by a first of the at least one transformation components which is an analog-to-digital transformation component; and converting the digital stream to the text stream by a second of the at least one transformation components which is a voice speech recognition transformation component; and the step of digitally notarizing the text stream further comprises steps of: computing a hash over the text stream; combining the hash with unique identifiers of the audio recording component, the analog-to-digital transformation component, and the voice speech recognition transformation component; and digitally signing the combination using a private cryptographic key of the security core, wherein the private cryptographic key has a public cryptographic key cryptographically associated therewith.
- 46. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 39, wherein[[:]] the step of transforming the audio stream to a text stream further comprises steps of transforming the audio stream to a first digital stream by a first of the at least one transformation components which is an analog-to-digital transformation component; converting the first digital stream to

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a first encoded text stream by a second of the at least one transformation components which is a voice speech recognition transformation component, wherein the voice speech recognition transformation component may be augmented by zero or more others of the at least one transformation components which are an authenticated speaker-specific voice speech recognition database and/or a lexical transformation component; and compressing the first encoded text stream into the text stream using a third of the at least one transformation components which is a text compression transformation component; and the step of digitally notarizing the text stream further comprises steps of: computing a hash over the text stream; combining the hash with unique identifiers of: (1) the audio recording component; (2) the analog-to-digital transformation component; (3) the voice speech recognition transformation component; (4) the authenticated speaker-specific voice speech recognition database and/or the lexical transformation component, if they augmented the voice speech recognition transformation component; (5) the text compression transformation component; and signing the combination using a private cryptographic key of the security core, wherein the private cryptographic key has a public cryptographic key cryptographically associated therewith.

- 47. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein the text stream is an ASCH text stream.
- 48. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein the text stream is a Unicode text stream.
- 49. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for providing improved audio compression securely transforming an audio stream to encoded text, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code means for operating configured to operate a security core which provides security functions;

computer-readable program code means for securely operably connecting configured to securely operably connect one or more components, comprising at least an audio recording

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component and one or more transformation components, to the security core, such that the security core can vouch for authenticity of each securely operably connected component;

computer-readable program code means for transforming configured to transform an audio stream that is recorded by the securely operably connected audio recording component to a text stream, the transforming being performed by at least one of the securely operably connected transformation components;

and computer-readable program code means for securely providing configured to securely provide, for the text stream by the security core, an identification of the securely operably connected audio recording component and each of the at least one securely operably connected transformation components; [[.]]

computer-readable program code configured to detect whether the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component remain operably connected to the security core during the recording and the transforming; and

computer-readable program code configured to abort the recording and the transforming if one or more of the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component fails to remain operably connected to the security core during the recording and transforming.

- 50. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 49, wherein selected ones of the operable connections are made using one or more buses of the security core.
- 51. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 49, wherein selected ones of the operable connections are made using a wireless connection between respective ones of the components and the security core.
- 52. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 51, wherein the wireless connections use Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) data encryption or an equivalent which provides mutual authentication of both endpoints, negotiation of a time-limited key

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agreement with secure passage of a selected encryption key, and periodic renegotiation of the time-limited key agreement with a new encryption key.

- 53. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 49, wherein selected ones of the secure operable connections are provided when the security core is manufactured.
- 54. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 49, wherein the computer-readable program code means for configured to securely operably connecting connect further comprises computer-readable program code means for authenticating configured to authenticate the operably connected component to the security core.
- 55. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 54, wherein the computer-readable program code means for authenticating configured to authenticate further comprises: computer-readable program code means for providing configured to provide a unique identifier of the operably connected component to the security core, along with a digital signature of the unique identifier that is created using a private key of the operably connected component; and computer-readable program code means for using, configured to use by the security core, a public key that is cryptographically associated with the private key to determine authenticity of the operably connected component.
- 56. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 49, wherein the computer-readable program code means for configured to securely operably connecting connect is activated by a hardware reset of the component, and wherein the hardware reset is activated by operably connecting of the component.
- 57. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 54, wherein the computer-readable program code means for authenticating are configured to authenticate is securely stored on the operably connected component.

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58. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 54, further comprising computer-readable program code means for authenticating configured to authenticate the security core to the operably connected component.

59. (Canceled)

- 60. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 49, further comprising: computer-readable program code means for detecting configured to detect whether the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component remain operably connected to the security core during operation of the recording and the computer-readable program code means for transforming configured to transform; and computer-readable program code means for marking configured to mark the text stream as not authenticated if one or more of the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component fails to remain operably connected to the security core during operation of the recording and the computer-readable program code means for transforming configured to transform.
- 61. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 55, further comprising: computer-readable program code means for determining configured to determine whether the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component have been authenticated to the security core; and computer-readable program code means for aborting configured to abort the recording or the transforming if one or more of the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component has not been authenticated to the security core.
- 62. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 55, further comprising: computer-readable program code means for determining configured to determine whether the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component have been authenticated to the security core; and computer-readable program

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code means for marking configured to mark the text stream as not authenticated if one or more of the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component has not been authenticated to the security core.

- 63. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 49, wherein the computer-readable program code means for securely providing configured to securely provide further comprises computer-readable program code means for digitally notarizing configured to digitally notorize, by the security core, the text stream.
- 64. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 49, wherein the computer-readable program code means for securely providing configured to securely provide further comprises computer-readable program code means for providing configured to provide an additional data stream that is associated with the text stream, wherein the additional data stream comprises a digital notarization, created by the security core, of the text stream.
- 65. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 63, wherein the computer-readable program code means for digitally notarizing configured to digitally notarize further comprises: computer-readable program code means for computing configured to compute, by the security core, a hash value over the text stream; computer-readable program code means for combining configured to combine the hash value with a unique identifier of the audio recording component and of each of the at least one transformation components, thereby creating a combination data block; computer-readable program code means for hashing configured to hash the combination data block; computer-readable program code means for digitally signing configured to digitally sign the hashed combination data block with a private cryptographic key of the security core, wherein the private cryptographic key has a public cryptographic key cryptographically associated therewith; and computer-readable program code means for providing configured to provide the digitally signed hashed combination data block, along with the combination data block, as the digital notarization for the text stream, wherein the digital notarization cryptographically

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seals contents of the text stream and identifies the audio recording component and each of the at least one transformation components.

- 66. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 65, further comprising computer-readable program code means for verifying configured to verify authenticity of the text stream by a receiver of the text stream and the digital notarization, using the public cryptographic key of the security core, and for concluding to conclude that the text stream is authentic if the verification succeeds.
- 67. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 66, wherein the computer-readable program code means for verifying configured to verify authenticity further comprises concluding computer-readable program code configured to conclude that the text stream has not been tampered with if the verification succeeds.
- 68. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 66, wherein the computer-readable program code means for verifying configured to verify authenticity further comprises computer-readable program code means for determining configured to determine the audio recording component and the at least one transformation component involved in creating the text stream by decoding the digitally signed hashed combination data block to reveal the unique identifiers thereof.
- 69. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 63, wherein: the computer-readable program code means for transforming configured to transform the audio stream to a text stream further comprises: computer-readable program code means for transforming configured to transform the audio stream to a digital stream by a first of the at least one transformation components which is an analog-to digital transformation component; and computer-readable program code means for converting configured to convert the digital stream to the text stream by a second of the at least one transformation components which is a voice speech recognition transformation component; and the computer-readable program code means for configured to digitally notarizing

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notarize the text stream further comprises: computer-readable program code means for computing configured to compute a hash over the text stream; computer-readable program code means for combining configured to combine the hash with unique identifiers of the audio recording component, the analog-to-digital transformation component, and the voice speech recognition transformation component; and computer-readable program code means for digitally signing configured to digitally sign the combination using a private cryptographic key of the security core, wherein the private cryptographic key has a public cryptographic key cryptographically associated therewith.

70. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 63, wherein: the computer-readable program code means for transforming configured to transform the audio stream to a text stream further comprises: computer-readable program code means for transforming configured to transform the audio stream to a first digital stream by a first of the at least one transformation components which is an analog-to-digital transformation component; computer-readable program code means for converting configured to convert the first digital stream to a first encoded text stream by a second of the at least one transformation components which is a voice speech recognition transformation component, wherein the voice speech recognition transformation component may be augmented by zero or more others of the at least one transformation components which are an authenticated speaker-specific voice speech recognition database and/or a lexical transformation component; and computer-readable program code means for compressing configured to compress the first encoded text stream into the text stream using a third of the at least one transformation components which is a text compression transformation component; and the computer-readable program code means for digitally notarizing configured to digitally notarize the text stream further comprises: computer-readable program code means for computing configured to compute a hash over the text stream, computerreadable program code means for combining configured to combine the hash with unique identifiers of: (1) the audio recording component; (2) the analog-to-digital transformation component; (3) the voice speech recognition transformation component; (4) the authenticated speaker-specific voice speech recognition database and/or the lexical transformation

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component, if they augmented the voice speech recognition transformation component; (5) the text compression transformation component; and computer-readable program code means for signing configured to sign the combination using a private cryptographic key of the security core, wherein the private cryptographic key has a public cryptographic key cryptographically associated therewith.

- 71. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 49, wherein the text stream is an ASCII text stream.
- 72. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 49, wherein the text stream is a Unicode text stream.